



PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP  
(LDIG)

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Pima Emergency Communications and Operations Center

**RECAP**

Attendance: Erin Boyle (NWS), Colby Bowser (RWRD), Lindy Brigham (SABCC), Kathy Chavez (RWRD), Carol Cerniglia (NWS), Jeff Guthrie (PCOEM), Jacob Prietto (RWRD), Marck Stamer (CNS), Lilian von Rago (RWRD), Claire Zucker (PAG)

1. Welcome and Introductions -Welcome and Introductions were made
2. Updates
  - Recap of May 14, 2014 LDIG meeting
  - Drought Status Maps: The May and June short term drought maps show continued dry conditions as is typical pre-monsoon. The long term map will be published later in July.
  - Pima County Vulnerability Assessment and Drought Ordinance are scheduled for the August 5 Board of Supervisors agenda. The draft ordinance includes a shift in recommended drought stages to better match the State's Drought Status Report for drought intensity in Pima County
3. Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – Jeff Guthrie, Pima County Office of Emergency Management provided the following:
  - The CWPP was recently updated and was presented to the Board of Supervisors in March 2014. It represents a collaborative effort among all area fire officials in Pima County, except the City of Tucson.
  - The plan identifies the wildfire urban interface (WUI) areas of concern. Having the plan helps fire districts secure federal funding under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Pima County is the third county in Arizona to have a plan in place. The plan is county-wide and is not area-specific
  - The wildfire potential in Pima County remains high
  - A ban on the use of residential fireworks in Pima County was overridden by the State
  - The plan represents regional cooperation in that it included participation from all the fire chiefs in Pima County

- Each fire district provides public education in their respective district and works with residents to promote fire-safe areas
  - All jurisdictions have adopted the plan, except for the City of Tucson
  - The plan does cover the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Tucson
  - The plan is reviewed annually
  - 40% of brush fires are attributed to buffel grass
4. Burned Area Emergency Response Program – Marc Stammer, Coronado National Forest gave a presentation on the program. The following points were made:
- The program objectives are to identify imminent post wildfire threats to human life and safety, property and critical natural or cultural resources on forest service lands and to manage unacceptable risks
  - It addresses recovery of fire and watershed impacts such as erosion, sediment deposition and flows, based on observed conditions and simulated models
  - Critical risk values assessed include human life and safety, property, natural resources and heritage and cultural resources
  - Of the several treatment options available, natural recovery is the most preferable when possible. Treatment options can include erosion control, seeding, and road or trail repair
  - An assessment report is prepared seven days after fire containment and includes recommended implementation treatment
  - An overview of the Oak fire was provided
    - i. 14,000 acres burned and the fire was caused by lightning
    - ii. Satellite images looked for changes in chlorophyll and ash
    - iii. A burned area reflectance classification (BARC) map was prepared to generate a soil burn severity map. The original satellite mapping over estimates the burn severity because of reflectiveness of rock outcrops; ground truthing improves accuracy.
    - iv. A suppression plan was in place and in some places, the fire was allowed to burn
  - The response program for the Monument Fire was described
    - i. 32,074 acres burned
    - ii. A watershed response post- and pre-fire of flows in cubic feet per second was prepared
    - iii. The percent change in values was evaluated
    - iv. The assessment evaluated risk to homes, roads, campgrounds, water sources, trails, architectural sites, botany, soil productivity and threatened and endangered species. The assessment can be provided to counties for private properties
    - v. All proposed treatments are subject to cost-risk assessment. Some included:
      - 1. removing invasive species
      - 2. storm-proofing trails

3. slope stabilization
4. removal of noxious weeds and area seeding
5. channel clearing
6. road and trail stabilization
- vi. CNS coordinated with downstream municipalities and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- vii. Questions
  1. Does seeding contain invasive seeds? The CNF tries to use native seeds. The area is monitored post-fire
  2. How is contamination controlled? After large incidents equipment is washed to decontaminate it. This may not be possible in an active wildfire season. The area is also surveyed after the incident.
  3. What is the relationship with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan? The Forest Service may be able to help with funding if there is a CWPP plan in place. It is a positive partnership
  4. How does the plan address the difference between fire control and emergency response?
  5. What happens if a fire crosses jurisdictions? There are mutual aid agreements in place

## 5. Adjournment

- a. The presenters were thanked
- b. Next meeting is September 10. Items include an overview of the summer monsoon season and an outlook on the Colorado River and CAP
- c. Meeting was adjourned
- d. A tour of the Pima Emergency Communications and Operations Center followed